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In these statements the President struck the key-note of the proceedings of the Geological section during the following week. Never, probably, did the authors of papers, or those who took part in the discussions which they elicited, appeal so little to convulsion, cataclysm, or catastrophe. — *Quarterly Journal of Science, London.*

MICROSCOPY.

THE MICROSCOPE IN MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE. — In a case of poisoning by means of corrosive sublimate maliciously substituted for the proper medicine, and in which there was a doubt of the utmost importance to remove, as to the source of the poison, rendering it uncertain whether the child had met with its death by accident, carelessness, or otherwise, Mr. Deane, by the aid of the microscope, determined, in the most unequivocal manner, that the poison was derived from a small parcel of the same substance, kept in a piece of rag in the house of the child's parents, where it died, thus rendering it quite certain that the death of the child was premeditated, and at the same time removing every trace of suspicion from innocent parties, whose care and common sense had been called in question. — *Address of the President, James Glaisher, of the Microscopical Society, London.*

THE POLYCYSTINA. — In a paper on the structure and affinities of the Polycystina [one of which, *Podocyrthis Schomburgkii*, is figured on the left side, at the bottom of the title-page of the NATURALIST], Dr. Wallich has furnished us with an elaborate account of this obscure family of the Protozoa, and a classification based, as he believes, on the only constant characters it exhibits, viz., those involved in the mode of development and growth of the silicious framework within, and around which their soft part, or sarcode, is sustained. — *Ib.*

EXPLORATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS.

The Lyceum of Natural History of Williams College, propose to send out early this summer a scientific expedition to South America. It will be under the charge of Prof. James Orton, of the University of Rochester. The design of the party, to consist of twelve, is to collect specimens of Natural History, and study the physical geology of the Cordilleras, making Quito the base of their operations. Special observations will also be made on the physical geography of the region, particularly the nature and altitude of the volcanic cones.

This active society has already sent out five expeditions; two to Nova Scotia, one to Newfoundland, one to Florida, and one to Labrador and Greenland. Subscriptions to aid the expedition are desired.

Dr. T. M. Brewer is engaged in preparing for the press the second and last part of the *North American Oology*, the first part of which appeared in volume seven of the Smithsonian "Contributions." The eggs and nests of about one hundred and fifty birds will be described. The illustrations will consist of about one hundred figures, in five or six 4to plates.

We have received some advance sheets of a work on the *Ornithology and Oology of New England*. By Edward A. Samuels. Nichols & Noyes, Boston. We shall give a farther notice of it hereafter. It will contain over five hundred 8vo pages, and be illustrated by twenty-three plates of Birds, four plates of Eggs, and a large number of wood-cuts.

CORRESPONDENCE.

IN answer to several inquiries regarding the disease resulting from eating pork infested by the *Trichina*, we print the following account kindly prepared for the *Naturalist* by a well-known authority on this subject:—

Trichina spiralis.—This entozöon is the cause of a serious and often fatal disease of the intestinal canal and muscular system of man, called Trichiniasis or Trichinosis, which is produced by eating the flesh of swine similarly affected. Before giving an account, however, of the natural history of this parasite, it may be well to state that trichinous pork is not measly pork. Measles in the hog is the encysted stage of the common tape-worm of man (*Tænia solium*). Measly flesh being eaten, the little cysts or scolices, as they are called, which consist of the future head of the mature animal inverted, escape from their sacs within the stomach, unless previously destroyed by cooking, and attach themselves by their armed heads to the intestinal walls. From this head are developed one after another the joints which make up the body of the tape-worm. The first formed or oldest joints, or proglottides, when sexually mature, escape from the intestinal canal of their host, and, being eaten by swine, the ova they contain are set free. During digestion, the eggshells are dissolved, and the minute embryos find their way into the tissues of their new host, to be again converted into encysted scolices, or measly pork. In this stage the tape-worm is called *Cysticereus cellulosæ*.

The *Trichina spiralis*, on the other hand, does not belong to this order of Cestoidea or encysted worms, but to the Nematoidea or round worms (of which the pin-worm is an example), and its development is much less complicated. If trichinous pork is examined by the microscope, the muscular fibres will be found occupied by minute